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- Senate has votes for tax hike, leader says
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BLOGS

Kalamazoo Gazette 24/7

- South Haven man dead in shooting, car crash 10:34 p.m. ET
- Meth reportedly found in traffic stop 9:28 a.m. ET
- Man in critical condition after ATV crash 9:22 a.m. ET

TOP STATEWIDE NEWS



John A. Lacko /

EPA: Dump meets all criteria for PCBs City, other opponents still looking for way to block sediments from river cleanup

Tuesday, April 10, 2007

By Chris Killian
Special to the Gazette

It may not have a federal permit for disposal of toxic wastes.

But because the Allied Paper Inc. landfill in Kalamazoo meets or exceeds every federal disposal regulation for landfills in which polychlorinated biphenyls may be disposed, its approval as a dumping site for more than two tons of PCB-laden materials dredged from the Kalamazoo River is likely to stand.

Meanwhile, an anonymous donor has agreed to finance a possible class-action lawsuit to fight the plan to dump PCBs at the landfill, City Commissioner Don Cooney said Monday.

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Speaking to about 30 people at a meeting of the Homecrest Circle Association, a

Special to K'zoo Gazette

This closeup of a tart-cherry bud shows dark brown spots on two of the three "ovules," which grow into flowers on the plant. The spots indicate kill from the freeze, a bad sign for Michigan's crop.

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FORUMS

Tell us what's going on in Kalamazoo

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Kalamazoo Talk

• KAG66 by *creolered* 04/10/2007 11:17 p.m. ET

• Records/music by *blargonator* 04/10/2007 8:59 p.m. ET

• Check antique stores by *DWaneDTubb* 04/10/2007 10:04 p.m. ET

• Goodwill on Milham by *looslyrapt* 04/10/2007 10:05 p.m. ET

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neighborhood organization, Cooney said he hopes that funding will pay for an attorney with a national, proven track record" in litigating such environmental lawsuits will be identified this week.

The search is being spearheaded by the Kalamazoo Environmental Justice Coalition, a recently formed grass-roots organization of neighborhood groups and some city leaders opposed to the plan to dispose of sediments extracted from the river near Plainwell.

Federal Superfund cleanup laws allow for PCBs to be disposed of in areas that meet nine criteria outlined in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 761.75.

Among other requirements, the code calls for:

- A layer of "relatively impermeable formations" of soil material at least four feet thick beneath a landfill.

The Allied site has compacted material eight to 20 feet thick and a thick layer of clay beneath it, which U.S. Environmental Protection Agency officials say creates an essentially impermeable liner.

- Water tables at the site must not allow PCBs to leach into groundwater.

CONTINUED 1 | 2 [Nex](#)

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